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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Christopher James Massam

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YOUNG & THOMPSON
209 Madison Street
Suite 500
Alexandria, VA 22314

EXAMINER

MCADAMS, BRAD

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2456

NOTIFICATION DATE

DELIVERY MODE

04/27/2011

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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DocketingDept@young-thompson.com

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/540,328	Applicant(s) MASSAM ET AL.	
	Examiner ROBERT B. MCADAMS	Art Unit 2456	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 February 2011.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 21-32 and 34-39 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 21-32 and 34-39 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to the amendment filed on February 16, 2011.
2. Claims 21-32 and 34-39 are pending.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 2/16/2011 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The Applicant argues *Fangman* and *Hughes* fail to disclose downloading the entire configuration data each time the device is initialized (pages 12-14). The Examiner respectfully disagrees.

Fangman discloses downloading the entire configuration from the TFTP Server as shown in Step 404, Figure 4A; Paragraph bridging Columns 15 and 16). The Applicant argues *Hughes* teaches away from downloading in a single step. In the previous rejection, *Fangman* is used to exclusively teach the limitation of downloading the entire configuration, not *Hughes*. Additionally, *Hughes* also teaches downloading in a single step as the Applicant disclosed, but the Applicant argues that additional OS files and/or program files are downloaded later. The Applicant specification discloses that the "configuration data" is data used to carry out the devices intended purpose (paragraph 0008). *Hughes* downloads this "entire configuration data" upon startup of the device, which is configuration data sufficient to carry out the devices intended purpose. *Hughes* additionally and optionally provides the ability to download additional applications and OS features if so requested. This optional data is separate from the

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"entire configuration data" or "configuration data sufficient to carry out the devices intended purpose. The Examiner notes that *Li* also teaches downloading the entire configuration (Figure 11b; Column 9, Lines 10-25 and Column 12, Lines 38-48)

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to the amended limitations of Claims 21-29 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. **Claim 21-29** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Fangman* (U.S. Patent No. 6,687,245) in view of *Hughes* (U.S. Patent No. 6,854,009 B1) and in further view of *Li* (U.S. Patent No. 6,012,088).

As to **Claims 21, 25 and 28**, *Fangman* discloses a method of providing a VPN communication between two or more network devices of unknown network address at least a first one of which network devices does not initially know the other network devices internet network addresses (**IP Telephones 120A and B, Figure 2**), the method comprising:

providing a verification authority connected to the internet remote from the two or more network devices and capable of verifying the identity of the two or more internet network devices **(SG 170, containing DHCP functionality, verifies the MAC address of the connected network devices. Step 510, Figure 5A);**

providing a configuration server connected to the internet remote from the two or more network devices and capable of supplying to each verified internet device the entire configuration data for that verified internet device **(TFTP Server. Steps 546-556, Figure 5B; Column 19, Lines 60-63);**

providing each of the two or more network devices free of provision to permanently store the user configuration data, each of the devices containing configuration information only sufficient to connect the devices to an internet service provider to request a first IP address **(Each IP Telephone upon power-on is uninitialized wherein it only contains information for contacting a server to retrieve an address. Steps 402 and 404, Figure 4; Column 15, Lines 48-59)** , and using that first IP address to connect to the remote verification authority at a remote verification authority and using the designated internet address of that remote verification authority **(DHCP lease negotiations include default gateway, SG 170. Column 16, Lines 44-48)**, and subsequently downloading from a remote configuration authority authorized by the remote verification authority the entire configuration data each time the device is initialized, for one of the two or more internet network devices, each time that device is initialized, reloading that device with the downloaded configuration data **(After initialization of said IP Phones the entire configuration is downloaded from the**

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TFTP Server. Steps 402 and 404, Figure 4A; Paragraph bridging Columns 15 and 16),

storing the allocated internet network address of the network device at the verification authority **(SG 170 acts as a NAT, storing public and private address translation tables of connected network devices. Column 8, Lines 14-24),**

repeating the process for each of the other network devices so that each of the other network devices downloads from the remote configuration server authorized by the remote verification authority the entire configuration data for that particular internet network device each time that particular device is initialized and reloading that particular device with the downloaded configuration data and storing the allocated internet network address for that particular device at the verification authority **(Each IP Telephone 120 follows Steps 402-404, Figure 4A and storing the network address at the verification authority as discussed above.),**

and initiating a VPN communication between two or more of the network devices, by sending an instruction from the verification authority to one of the network devices by supplying to that network device the allocated internet address of at least one of the other network devices so that the recipient internet device can communicate with the other network device **(SG 170 supplies the network address of a IP Telephone 120 to a remote VPN concentrator so the remote IP Telephone can communicate. Figures 10A and 10B; Column 9, Lines 23-40).**

However, *Fangman* does not expressly disclose providing within each of the two or more network devices, a routine which securely contacts the remote verification

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authority, providing the identity of the network device wherein the verification authority is remote from an internet service provider, wherein a configuration server is remote from the internet service provider and wherein the network devices create a private network in a downlink.

Hughes, in the same field of endeavor, teaches providing within each of the two or more network devices, a routine which securely contacts the remote verification authority, providing the identity of the network device **(Clients 132, 141 authentication and tokening are passed between the authentication server. Column 6, Lines 14-22)** wherein the verification authority is remote from an internet service provider providing an internet connection to each of the two or more network devices **(Authentication Server 216 contained in Server Farm 100 is located remotely from the Local and Regional Servers 132 and 140. Figures 1 and 2; Column 5, Lines 24-67 and Column 6, Lines 1-13).**

At the time of invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have combined providing VPN communication between two network devices as taught by *Fangman* with providing a secure connection to the remote authentication server as taught by *Hughes*. The motivation would have been to provide additional security.

Li, in the same field of endeavor, teaches wherein a configuration server is remote from the internet service provider providing an internet connection to each of the two or more network devices **(The Configuration Server 410 can be located anywhere in the internet, accessed by its IP address. Column 13, Lines 45-49);**

and wherein each of the two or more network devices creating a private network in a downlink separate from end user devices in the created private network (**Internet Access Device 100 contains a Router 240 for creating a private network in the downlink for the end users. Figure 4; Paragraph bridging Columns 6 and 7).**

At the time of invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have combined providing VPN communication between two network devices as taught by *Fangman-Hughes* with having a remote configuration server and the network devices containing routers for creating a private network as taught by *Li*. The motivation would to allow end users in a private network to connect to each other via the network devices securely.

As to **Claim 22**, *Fangman-Hughes-Li* teach the method as previously discussed in Claim 21. *Li* further teaches wherein the two or more network devices are routers (**Router 240. Figure 4; Paragraph bridging Columns 6 and 7).**

As to **Claim 23**, *Fangman-Hughes-Li* teach the method as previously discussed in Claim 21. *Li* further teaches wherein the routers form part of ADSL modems (**Paragraph bridging Columns 6 and 7).**

As to **Claim 24**, *Fangman-Hughes* teach the method as previously discussed in Claim 21. *Fangman* further teaches wherein the configuration data is downloaded as a

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single transaction (**Steps 402 and 404, Figure 4A; Paragraph bridging Columns 15 and 16**).

As to **Claim 26**, *Fangman-Hughes-Li* teach the method as previously discussed in Claim 21. *Hughes* further teaches wherein the configuration data remains unchanged for the duration of the network devices powered on cycle (**Column 26, Lines 27-30**).

As to **Claim 27**, *Fangman-Hughes-Li* teach the method as previously discussed in Claim 21. *Fangman* further teaches wherein the configuration data is only downloaded upon a power up sequence (**Steps 402 and 404, Figure 4B**).

As to **Claim 29**, *Fangman-Hughes-Li* teach the method as previously discussed in Claim 21. *Fangman* further teaches wherein a user sends a request via secure internet access to the remote authority to create a VPN between some or all of the network devices whose addresses have been stored at the remote authority (**Figures 10A and 10B**).

7. **Claims 30-32 and 34-39** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Fangman* (U.S. Patent No. 6,687,245) in view of *Hughes* (U.S. Patent No. 6,854,009 B1) in further view of *Li* (U.S. Patent No. 6,012,088) and in further view of *Weldon* (U.S. Patent No. 6,366,563 B1).

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As to **Claim 30**, *Fangman-Hughes-Li* teach the method as previously discussed in Claim 29.

However, *Fangman-Hughes-Li* do not expressly teach sending statistics for analysis.

Weldon, in the same field of endeavor, teaches network devices communicating with a remote authority on schedule to send statistics for storage and analysis (**Probing router, on a polling interval, collects statistics for storage and analysis. Column 10, Figure 5; Column 10, Lines 41-55**).

At the time of invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have combined the communication method as taught by *Fangman-Hughes-Li* with sending statistics as taught by *Weldon*. The motivation would have been to enhance the performance of the VPN by analyzing performance statistics.

As to **Claim 31**, *Fangman-Hughes-Li-Weldon* teach the method as previously discussed in Claim 29. *Hughes* further teaches wherein each of the two or more network devices are routers (**Router 240. Figure 4; Paragraph bridging Columns 6 and 7**).

As to **Claim 32**, *Fangman-Hughes-Li-Weldon* teach the method as previously discussed in Claim 29. *Hughes* further teaches wherein the routers form part of ADSL modems (**Paragraph bridging Columns 6 and 7**).

As to **Claim 34**, *Hughes Fangman-Hughes-Li-Weldon* teach the method as previously discussed in Claim 29. *Fangman* further teaches wherein the configuration details and software are downloaded as a single transaction (**Steps 402 and 404, Figure 4A; Paragraph bridging Columns 15 and 16**).

As to **Claim 35**, *Fangman-Hughes-Li-Weldon* teach the method as previously discussed in Claim 29. *Hughes* further teaches wherein the configuration details and software are lost when the network device loses power ((**VPN device 144a securely contacts remote verification authority, Authentication Server 216, via a VPN, to download and store its configuration data from the Configuration Server in RAM, where the local configuration is lost upon power loss as is well known in the art when using RAM as a storage device. Column 4, Lines 14-17, Column 4, Lines 56-65, Column 7, Lines 55-64 and Paragraph bridging Columns 7 and 8.**)

As to **Claim 36**, *Fangman-Hughes-Li-Weldon* teach the method as previously discussed in Claim 29. *Hughes* further teaches wherein the configuration details and software remain unchanged for the duration of the network devices powered on cycle (**Column 26, Lines 27-30**).

As to **Claim 37**, *Fangman-Hughes-Li-Weldon* teach the method as previously discussed in Claim 29. *Hughes* further teaches wherein the configuration details and software are only downloaded upon a power up sequence (**Column 7, Lines 55-64**).

As to **Claim 38**, *Fangman-Hughes-Li-Weldon* teach the method as previously discussed in Claim 29. *Hughes* further teaches wherein the remote authority sends a code to at least one of the network devices which forces it to download the configuration details and software (**A code is checked forcing the download of the configuration software. Column 11, Lines 9-19**).

As to **Claim 39**, *Fangman-Hughes-Li-Weldon* teach the method as previously discussed in Claim 29. *Hughes* further teaches wherein the user configuration details and software can be changed by a user via a secure internet connection to the remote authority (**A user can change which profile configuration they connect to at the remote authority. Column 13, Lines 36-41**).

Conclusion

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

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shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ROBERT B. MCADAMS whose telephone number is (571)270-3309. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 5:30am-4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rupal Dharia can be reached on 571-272-3880. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/R. B. M./
Examiner, Art Unit 2456

/KEVIN BATES/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2456